

Remarks

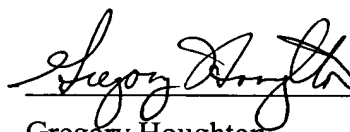
Claims 1 5, 9-12 and 17 are currently pending in this application. Proposed amendments have been made to the specification and new claims 18-24 have been added to clarify the present invention. Support for these proposed amendments may be found throughout the application as filed within. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the proposed amendments and entry of the same is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Christopher Atkinson for the discussion concerning the above-identified application on December 17, 2003. During that discussion, Applicants and Examiner Atkinson agreed that Kieren does not teach or suggest that the other end of the drain pipe and/or vent pipe can be connected outside the heat exchanger to an immediately adjacent passing port passing the same fluid as the drain and/or vent pipe as claimed by Applicants. Further, Examiner Atkinson indicated that amendments to claim 1 and 9 to remove the phrase "and/or" would obviate any objection/rejections and place the pending application in condition for allowance. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 9 and have added new claims 18-24 to ensure Applicants claim the invention no longer covered by the omission of the phrase "and/or".

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and request that all claims be allowed. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should he believe that this would expedite prosecution of this application. It is believed that no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,

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